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Human Rights Commission Minutes 03/16/2005

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Final March 16, 2005

In Attendance:

Sheri Baron, Marliisa Briggett, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Christine Deshler, Nancy Rhoads, Nancy Sweeney

Absent:

Cecilia Akuffo, Kevin McGann, A. Nick Minton, Bill Shea

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

1. The February minutes were approved and accepted as amended.
- 2 Nancy Sweeney introduced **Regina Caines**. Regina has expressed interest in becoming a member of the commission and came tonight to observe the meeting. She gave a briefing of her background in diversity and human rights issues and will consider submitting a resume when her activities wind down at the end of the season.
2. **Vision 2020** - Christine Deshler expressed that the extra cost of the mailing this year had nothing to do with the Commission's survey insert and after much discussion on this issue it was suggested that Bill Shea should be the member to notify Jane Howard of this decision.
3. **Photo exhibit for schools** - this will be an evening event at the library on 4/28-4/30 - (date is not confirmed as yet) - it was decided that the commissioners are willing to volunteer time and donate \$100 for this event - but there is no sign up until the plans for the event are finalized.
4. **"Afghanistan 1380"** - has been cancelled.
5. **Dialogue with Ed Flynn** - Town Hall, 7:00pm - "Challenge of Racial Profiling Post 9/11" - still on - but Fred Schaur is unable to come as planned - Nancy Rhodes will call the Kennedy School of Government to book another speaker - more information to follow.

6. **Complaints and Incidents:**

The Commission reviewed the APD report of a recent tire slashing incident at the Stop and Shop - and lack of concern for the victim at a Mass. Avenue Shell Station - the victim has not yet filed her complaint with the Commission - Marliisa will call the victim and inform her that the Commission did speak about her issues - Christine Deshler would like a detailed account of what happened - and suggested we invite her to come before the Commission with her complaint or if that is not convenient have someone from the Commission have a one on one meeting with her - then the Commission should meet with Fred Ryan - a sub-committee of four and an alternate has been formed: Christine Carney, Sheri Baron, Nancy Sweeney, Marliisa Briggett and Christine Deshler will be an alternate - the sub-committee will follow the guidelines for

complaints in the usual manner

7. Other Business:

“Cotton Field of Dreams” - evening with Janis Kearney will be held in the downstairs library room - on Monday, April 11th at 7:00pm - the event will be Co-Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the African American Society - Marissa will do publicity in the Advocate - Sheri Baron suggested we always use our logo for all publicity.

The dialogue on Special Education held last night at the Bishop School had about 40 people in attendance - there was much positive feedback - there were people from out of town as well as Arlingtonians and a few teachers.

After much discussion the Commissioners feel that it may be time to **invite Chief Ryan** back for an update on racial profiling, sensitivity training - suggested that the Department of Justice may be of some help on these matters - concern has been expressed regarding recent incidents at the Germaine Lawrence School - suggested that Bill Shea tell him that a few things have come up and maybe we could revisit with him.

Vita Cohen has not been satisfied with her research on **Sensitivity Brochure** so is gathering information together from her own legal experiences for the Commission to review.

Prepared and submitted by:

*Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant*